

REMARKS

I. Introduction

In response to the pending Office Action, claims 1 and 10 have been amended and claim 16 has been canceled. No new matter has been added. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

II. Claim Objections

Claims 3 and 14 has been objected to for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicants have canceled claim 14. Accordingly, withdrawal of all claim objections is requested.

III. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 3 – 6, 9, 11-15, and 18 – 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Nakamura in view of Matsushita and Fukuda. Claims 7 and 8 stand rejected under § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Nakamura in view of Matsushita, Fukuda, and Oka. Claim 16 stands rejected in view of Poland in view of Matsushita and Fukuda. Applicants traverse these rejections for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1, as amended, recites a monitor device for displaying a front scene of a moving body with an image of an actual or imaginary converging point of a lane of a running path for the moving body being at a center of an image frame, wherein the image data is obtained by photo-electrically converting only an area determined in accordance with the zoom ratio in an effective image area, and the two dimensional image of the front scene is formed in an entire area of the effective image area in the image sensor. That is, in accordance with the configuration of claim 1, while the two dimensional image of the front scene is formed in an entire area of the effective

image area in the image sensor, only an area determined in accordance with the zoom ratio in such effective image area is photo-electrically converted, and thus, the image data can be obtained.

In reference to now canceled claim 16, the Examiner asserts that Matsushita discloses the above-identified features. However, it appears that the Examiner has misunderstood this claim element. As described above, amended claim 1 is directed to a monitor device wherein while the two dimensional image of the front scene is formed in an entire area of the effective image area in the image sensor, only an area determined in accordance with the zoom ratio in such effective image area is photo-electrically converted. In accordance with this configuration, the required time for the processing of the data can be reduced, thereby improving the frame rate. Therefore, as the speed of the automobile increases and the required speed of the processing becomes higher, the derived image data is smaller to require less time for processing of the data. Matsushita does not disclose or even suggest these features.

Accordingly, as each and every limitation must be disclosed or suggested by the prior art references in order to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness (MPEP § 2143.03), and none of the cited references, alone or in combination with each other, disclose or even suggest at least the above-identified claim features, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 is patentable over the cited references.

Claim 10 has been rewritten in independent form including the limitations of claims 1 and 9. Thus, claim 10 is now in condition for allowance.

Under Federal Circuit guidelines, a dependent claim is nonobvious if the independent claim upon which it depends is allowable because all the limitations of the independent claim are

contained in the dependent claims, *Harness International Inc. v. Simplimatic Engineering Co.*, 819 F.2d at 1100, 1108 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Accordingly, as the independent claims are patentable for at least the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that all dependent claims are also in condition for allowance. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are patentable based on their own merits by adding novel and non-obvious features to the combination

IV. Conclusion

Accordingly, it is urged that the application, as now amended, is in condition for allowance, an indication of which is respectfully solicited. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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